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## Valley Forge Park Awarded Funding for Visitor Improvements

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Valley Forge, PA-- Valley Forge National Historical Park was awarded \$375,000 in funding for three out of 110 projects approved by the National Park Centennial Initiative, a 10 year program to reinvigorate America's national parks and prepare them for a second century. The initiative includes a focus on increased funding for park operations plus a President's Challenge: up to \$100 million a year in federal funds to match \$100 million a year in philanthropic donations to the National Park Service.

The approved projects at Valley Forge include investments in a multi media show for the rehabilitated Washington's Headquarters area, a new connector trail in the Washington Headquarters area and the expansion of the popular Once Upon A Nation programming at the park.

"Partnerships are alive and well at Valley Forge" said Superintendent Mike Caldwell. "This is great news and it would not have been possible without the support from our partners in the community such as The Friends of Valley Forge Park and The Encampment Store who have pledged over \$185,000 in funding providing the vital match to secure these projects."

"This is how we put our Centennial goals on the ground and it's quite a beginning," National Park Service Director Mary A. Bomar said. "We have 110 programs and projects involving more than 130 individual, public and non-profit partners benefiting 76 national parks in 38 states and the District of Columbia."

The Washington's Headquarters area rehabilitation is well underway with construction resuming within the next week. The historic train station is currently being rehabilitated into a visitor contact station. The funded multi media show will be installed in the train station to enhance the visitor experience within the site. The project is being supported by a pledge of \$100,000 from the Friends of Valley Forge Park and The Encampment Store. "Having this project become a part of the Centennial Challenge is wonderful. This project will absolutely bring George Washington and his leadership alive for visitors," said Don Naimoli, chairman of the Friends of Valley Forge. Daria Fink, Executive Director of The Encampment Store seconded Naimoli's enthusiasm saying, "As the park's cooperating association helping to promote educational programming for

the public, we understand the benefits of collaboration and we are honored to offer our funding commitment to make this project a reality.”

The connector trail will link the Joseph Plumb Martin trail with the Valley Creek Trail in the vicinity of Washington’s Headquarters. This is one of the key improvements identified in the park’s new General Management Plan and will provide a much-needed linkage in the park’s trail system.

***About Valley Forge National Historical Park***

*Valley Forge National Historical Park is a national icon of the American Revolution that serves as a place where visitors enjoy, understand, care for and preserve America’s history and natural heritage. The Park offers an engaging, complete educational and recreational experience, providing an important piece of the American story in a beautiful, historical, preserved landscape.*

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